company registered in India can be granted a reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease for exploration or mining of minerals.

**Review of National Mineral Policy**

553. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to encourage the public and private sector investments in mineral exploration, the Planning Commission has set up a high level committee to review the National Mineral Policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that committee has recommended for amending the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act, 1957;

(c) if so, the amendments suggested by the high level committee; and

(d) how his Ministry is thinking of simplifying and streamlining the existing procedure for granting permits and leases for mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Committee has not submitted its recommendations yet.

**New law for adoption**

554. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has directed her Ministry to enact a special law providing legal option of adoption of and by all person irrespective of the religion and sex consequent on demand from the persons belonging to Muslims, Christians, etc. and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.